CONGRESSIONAL.

Thirty-Fifth Congress-First Session

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1867

The PRESIDENT pro tem. laid before the Senate a com-Treasurer of the United States, con taining a statement of the accounts of the United States for the third and fourth quarters of 1856, and the first and second quarters of 1857; which was ordered to lie on

On motion by Mr. ALLEN, a resolution was adopted that the Senate will to-morrow, at 1 o'clock, proceed to the election of a public printer.

On motion by Mr. GWIN, a resolution was adopted requesting the President of the United States to communicate to the Senate all the correspondence between the various departments and the present governor of Kansas, together with all such orders and instructions as have been issued to the said governor in relation to the affairs of that Territory; also, the constitution and schedule to which reference is made in the President's annual measure.

Mr. ALLEN submitted a resolution that the members

Committee on Foreign Relations Mr. Mason, chairman; sars. Douglas, Slidell, Polk, Crittenden, Seward, and

Affairs Mr. Davis, chairman; Messrs. hinson of Arkansas, Iverson, Broderick,

Fitzpatrick, Johnson of Arkansas, Iyerson, Broderick, Wilson, and King.

On Finance—Mr. Hunter, chairman; Mesars. Pearce, Gwin, Bright, Biggs, Fessenden, and Cameron.

On Naval Affsirs—Mr. Mallory, chairman; Mesars. Thomson of New Jersey, Slidell, Allen, Evans, Bell, and Hale.

Hale.

On Commerce—Mr. Clay, chairman; Messrs, Benjamin, Bigler, Toombs, Reid, Allen, and Hamlin.

On the Judiciary—Mr. Bayard, chairman; Messrs.
Toombs, Pugh, Benjamin, Green, Collamer, and Trum-

bull.

On the Post Office and Post Roads—Mr. Yulee, chairman;
Messrs. Bigler, Gwin, Fitch, Thomson of New Jersey,
Hale, and Dixon.

On Revolutionary Claims—Mr. Evans, chairman; Messrs.
Bates, Crittenden, Wilson, and Durkee.

On Public Lands—Mr. Stuart, chairman; Messrs. Johnson of Arkansus, Pugh, Broderick, Johnson of Tennessee, Foster, and Harlan.

On Claims—Mr. Iverson, chairman; Messrs. Mallory,
Polk, Clark, and Simmons.

Polk, Clark, and Simmons.

On Private Land Claims—Mr. Benjamin, chairman Messrs. Biggs, Thompson of Kentucky, Kennedy, and the District of Columbia-Mr. Brown, chairman

Messus, Mason, Johnson of Tennessee, Bigler, Kennedy, Hamlin, and Chandler.

On Indian Affairs—Mr. Sebastian, chairman; Messus. Broom, Reid, Fitch, Bell, Houston, and Doolittle.

On Patents and the Patent Office—Mr. Reid, chairman; Messus. Evans, Yulee, Simmons, and Trumbull.

On Pensions—Mr. Jones, chairman; Messrs. Thomson New Jersey, Clay, Bates, Thompson of Kentucky, King, and Foster.
On Public Buildings and Grounds—Mr. Bright, chairman

Messrs. Davis, Doughs, Bayard, and Clark. On Territories—Mr. Doughs, chairman; Messrs. Jones Schastian, Fitzpatrick, Groen, Collamer, and Wade. On Engrossed Bills—Mr. Wright, chairman; Messrs.

Bigler and Harlan

To Audit and Control Contingent Expenses—Mr. Evans, chairman; Messrs. Wright and Dixon.

On Enrolled Bilts—Mr. Jones, chairman; Messrs. Brown and Doolittle On Printing-Mr. Johnson of Arkansas, chairm

Messrs Fitzpatrick and Fessenden.

On the Library—Mr. Pearce, chairman; Messrs. Bayard

After the reading of the list,

After the reading of the list,

Mr. HAMLIN gaves the reasons why he could not vote
for the list of committees as read. He regarded it as
unjust, disproportionate, and sectional, and went on to
specify the various committees to whose organization he pecially objected.

Mr. DOOLITTLE also objected to the arrangement of

the committees, referring especially to the wants of the great Northwest, and the importance of the commerce and navigation of that section of the country.

Mr. CHANDLER read an extract from the Globe, announcing that a caucus of all parties had agreed to a certain list of committees. He said that announcement was incorrect. He was informed that a democratic cau cus was held, and a list of committees made out, leaving certain blanks to be filled by the republicans; and they saw fit to fill those blanks under protest. No such cau cus as announced was held, and no assent had ever beer given by the republicans of the Senate to any such for-mation of committees as therein announced.

The yeas and nays were ordered on the adoption of the

Mr. PUGH remarked that, inasmuch as the yeas and nays had been ordered on the question, he felt bound to say a word. He should vote for the list because it had been agreed upon by a regular democratic caucus; but he concurred with those senators who had expressed the pointion that the committees were not fairly had said so at the proper place and time, and felt bound to repeat it while placing his vote upon record in favor of the list.

Mr. STUART said that he had declined serving on the Committee on Commerce; as that committee had been alluded to, he thought it proper to make this statement.

Mr. BAYARD vindicated the propriety of the formation of the list. It was proper that the dominant party should always refer by the per that the dominant party should indency on all the important com-

mittees in their own hands. Mr. GWIN referred to the manner in which the republicans had arranged the committees in the House of Rep-resentatives, when they had the power, as being in an eminent degree sectional and unjust. They could not now find fault with a good grace, for they had always ex-ercised their power with an iron hand whenever they had

WILSON denied that at the last Congress the read been unjust to the democrats in the formation of the House committees.

The question being taken, the list of committees was

The question being taken, the list of committees was agreed to—yens 30, nays 19—as follows;
YEAS—Messrs, Allen, Bayard, Benjamin, Biggs, Bigler, Bright, Broderick, Brown, Clay, Davis, Douglas, Evans, Fitch, Fitzpatrick, Green, Gwin, Hunter, Iverson, Johnson of Arkansas, Johnson of Tennessee, Jones, Kennedy, Mason, Polk, Pugh, Reid, Sebastian, Slidell, Thomson of New Jersey, and Wright—39.
NAYS—Messrs, Cameron, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Doolittle, Durkee, Fessenden, Foot, Hale, Hamlin, Harlan, King, Seward, Simmons, Sumner, Trumbull, Wade, and Wilsom—19.

KANSAS AFFAIRS. The Senate then resumed the consideration of the Pres-

ident's annual message.

Mr. GREEN replied, in a speech of great ability, to the remarks of Judge Douglas some days since on the pro-priety of the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton ntion. That speech, he remarked, completely m by surprise, not only as to its matter, but its constitution.

I take took him by surprise, not only as to its matter, but its manner. Is was not his purpose to inquire into the motives that dictated it; and while he was willing to contives that dictated it; and while he was willing to con-cede that those motives might be patriotic, he regarded the speech as a very improper one. He thought it was well calculated to prejudice the question now pending be-fore the people of Kansas; and he therefore felt it his duty to reply to it, in justice to his own State, which was deeply interested in the subject, in order to counter-act, so far as it might be in his power, the impression which had been made by that speech. The real issue now is, ought Kansas, when her constitution shall be present-ed, to be admitted into the Union, or ought the consider-ation of what the senator from Illinois calls a fundamen-

people; and what enabling act is required to impart to been agreed to, and the question being on agreeing to them the power to propose a change in their form of gov-the original motion as amended.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Public them the power to propose a change in their form of government? Is an enabling act to give them more political rights, or more inalienable rights? That would be a solecism and a contradiction. From these considerations he argued that Congress would have no right to refuse to admit Kansas under the Lecompton constitution. He then took up the celebrated Arkansas case, and replied to the argument of Mr. Douglas, founded thereon. He maintained that the people of Kansas never proposed to then took up the celebrated Arkansas case, and replied to the argument of Mr. Dovolas, founded thereon. He maintained that the people of Kansas never proposed to form a State government without the consent of Congress. The convention was held in subordination to the territorial government; if admitted into the Union, the State government will take the place of the territorial government, and not without. If any attempt were to be made to subvert the present government and set up another government in opposition to the federal authority, we could subjugate it. But they do not propose to interfere with the territorial government until the assent of Congress is received. This harmonizes with the opinion of Attorney General Butler, upon which Judge Douglas had relied. There were eight States in the Union which formed constitutions without an enabling act, for the admission of two of which the senator from Illinois himself voted. California and Florida had no enabling act. If he could vote for the admission of California and Florida, there could be no reason why he could not vote for the admission of Kansas. The assent of Congress may be given at any

The organic act declares that the people of Kanshall be perfectly free to form and regulate their domes-tic institutions in their own way. That way was, to leave it to the action of a convention; and the conven-tion was under no obligation to submit the constitution, tion was under no obligation to submit the constitution, or any part of it, to a popular vote. They chose to submit the slavery question, which was the great bone of contention, as a matter of policy and prudence, and not from any legal compulsion whatever. And Mr. G. declared it as his opinion that the submission of that question alone was better calculated to get the real will and judgment of the people than if the whole constitution had been submitted. It had also been said that the people of Kansas had been deceived, and that positive pledges and promises to submit the constitution had been made and violated. That was a matter about which there had been a great deal of controversy, and as we had no positive evidence, he did not think it proper to dwell on it.

to dwell on it.

Mr. G. concluded his very able and logical speech by urging the importance of deciding this question speedily, so as to put an end to the constant agitation which had so long embittered the feelings of the different sections of the Union. He thought the constitution met the so long embittered the teelings of the different sections of the Union. He thought the constitution met the appro-bation of a majority of the people of Kansas; and if any of its provisions were observations to them, they would have the power of modifying or changing them at any

Mr. DOUGLAS expressed his gratification at the tone and spirit in which the senator from Missouri had dis-cussed this question; but as that senator seemed to have misapprehended his position as laid down in the speech delivered the other day, he would make a brief statement on one or two points in order that the Senate and the country might see what his position really was. First, he did not regard it as a fatal objection that there was no he did not regard it as a fatal objection that there was no enabling act in advance; and, second, he did not take the position that it was a fatal objection that the constitution was not submitted to the people before it was sent to Congress for acceptance. The position that he did assume was, that the regular mode of proceeding is by an enabling act, but if the territorial legislature proceeds to call a convention without having the consent of Congress to do so, that is irregular, but not so irregular that it necessarily follows that all the proceedings are vitiated. A convention or any other body of men may send a petition to Congress for a change in the form of their government, and Congress is at liberty to accept or reject the petition as it pleases. The Lecompton convention was not an unlawful body, and might send a petition; but it was not a convention authorized to establish or instit it was not a convention authorized to establish or insti-tute a government for itself. Many new States have been admitted without an enabling act first being passed by

admitted without an enabling act first being passed by Congress.

Mr. D. then urged that the schedule said that the constitution should be submitted to all the people of Kansas for approval or disapproval. No constitution could be considered as republican which did not imbody the will of the people who are to be governed by it, and was not formed by their action. The next question was, what is the best mode of ascertaining that will? He agreed with the President that the best mode was to refer it to the people for their acceptance or rejection by a fair vote. He could not admit that a constitution forced upon the people against their will was a republican constitution. He could not admit that a constitution forced upon the people against their will was a republican constitution. It was no use to say that it was a good constitution. Congress had no right to cram a good thing down their throats against their will. The question was, whether the people should be permitted to form their own constitution? The senator from Missouri had urged the importance of terminating this controversy. Mr. D. said he would do anything that was right, anything that was just, in order to terminate it; he would sacrifice everything but principle and honor and country in order to close this unhappy agitation. But how are we to do it? It must be done upon the principles of eternal justice and truth, or it will not stay closed. Congress must terminate it upon the principles of self-government, or they will not have a republican system of government. must terminate it upon the principles of self-government, or they will not have a republican system of government. No system of patching up and trickery will settle this question. Instead of having peace, it will only be the beginning of a new controversy. It would be necessary to increase the army and use the military power of the government, if the majority were to be subjected to the oppression of the minority. He trusted there would be no outbreak and no violence; but he feared such a result if the majority of the people of Kansus were to be coerest into submission to the will of the minority.

The senator from Missouri had said they could change

The schatter from Abssour had said they occur change the constitution ffamediately after they became a State; but Mr. D. contended on the other hand that it could not be changed until 1864, and then only by a convention to be called by two-thirds of the legislature. It was a prin-ciple of law that when a constitution provides for its be-ing changed at a particular time, and in a particular man-per, it excludes all, other times and all other works. Any court in Christendom would thus construe it; and Any court in Christendom would thus construe it; and the only other mode of changing their constitution would be by a revolution. This scheme, therefore, is a scheme of civil war; it leads directly to war. If he should vote to admit Kansas under the Lecompton constitution, he should feel obliged in consequence to increase the army and enforce it at the point of the bayonet. He, therefore, and enforce it at the point of the bayonet. He, therefore, besought senators to pause before they committed themselves to such a fatal error. This was not to be regarded as an administration measure; every man on the floor of the Senate was at perfect liberty to vote for or against it without sundering his party ties. But the adoption of the measure would not only rend asunder the democratic party, but endanger the peace and perpetuity of the Union. The President of the United States was a frank man; and he did not believe that the President would ask his party to do that to which he was unwilling to commit himself on paper. He did not believe that the Fresident would not be the party of the transfer of the t

part of their labors to a vote of the people; but if they thought best, as a measure of policy, to submit any question, that of slavery was the most proper one to be submitted. He also denied that the people of Kansas would be compelled to retain their present constitution unchanged until 1864, and argued that a convention could be called at any time to make such a change as the majority

of the people might desire.

The further consideration of the subject was postponed

until Monday next; and The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

ed, to be admitted into the Union, or ought the consideration of what the senator from Illinois calls a fundamental error of the President of the United States to be regarded as a sufficient cause for keeping Kansas out of the Union, and keeping up the agitation of this most unfortunate question? The question was, not whether we approved or did not approve of all the individual parts of the Lecompton constitution, as the provisions in reference to banks, taxation, &c.; those are matters with which we have nothing to do, but which are to be left to the people themselves to regulate. The only question for Congress to consider is, does the constitution imbody a republican form of government? Has anybody ever disputed that proposition, and contended that it was not republican? He believed not; certainly the senator from Illinois had not done so.

Mr. G. went on to remark that there seemed to be a want of a clear understanding as to the relation which the federal constitutions of the House met in the new hall.

The House met in the new hall.

Rev. Mr. Caruthers officiated. He called upon our Heavenly Father to guide and direct the President and Vice President of the United States, the senators and representatives in Congress assembled, the presiding officers of the House, and all who are intrusted with executive, legislative, and judicial responsibilities. May this hall, (continued he,) now dedicated to thy servants, the representatives of the people, as a place wherein the political and constitutional rights of our countrymen shall be maintained and defended, be a temple of honor and glory to our land. Let the deliberations and the decisions of this Congress advance the just interests of our government and make our Union the praise of the whole carth. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen!

The SPEAKER laid before the body the accounts of the Treasury of the United States for the third and fourth quarters of the year 1856, and the first and second quarters of the year 1857; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Also, a report from the First Comptroller of the Treasury of the year 1857; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

The question being on seconding the deprevious question on the substitute, ed the previous question on the resolution of the Treasury of the Treasury of the Treasury of the United States for the third and previous question on the substitute, and the first and second quarters of the year 1857; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

The question being on seconding the despection on the substitute, and the first and second quarters of the year 1856, and the first and second quarters of the year 1856, and the first and second quarters of the year 1856, and the first and second quarters of the year 1856, and the first and second quarters of the year 1856, and the first and second quarters of the year 1856, and the first and second quarters of the year 1857; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

The question being on seconding the deprevious question on the substitute, and the first and second quarters of the year 1856, and the first and second quarters of the year 1856, and the first and second quarters of the year 1856, and the first and second quarters of the year 1857; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

and ordered to be printed.

Also, a report from the First Comptroller of the Treasury, showing the balances due for more than three years prior to the first of July last on the books of the Second, Third, and Fourth Auditors of the Treasury and the Register; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Also, a communication from the clergymen of Wash-

Also, a communication from the clergymen of Washington, in answer to the resolution of the House inviting hem to officiate as chaplains of Congress, respectfully endering their services for that purpose.

Mr. QUITMAN, of Mississippi, by unanimous consent, oresented the potition and memorial of Mr. Chapman, of Nebraska, contesting the seat of Mr. Feriouson, the siting delegate from that Territory; which were laid on he table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CLEMENS, of Virginia, submitted the following esolution; which, under the operation of the previous question, was adonted:

resolution; which, under the operation of the previous question, was adopted:

Resolved, That the Clerk of this House, immediately after the passage of this resolution, place in a box the name of each member and delegate of the House of Representatives, written on a separate slip of paper; that he then proceed, in the presence of the House, to draw from said box, one at a time, the said slips of paper, and as each is drawn he shall announce the name of the member or delegate upon it, who shall choose his seat for the present session: Provided, That before said drawing shall commence the Speaker shall cause every seat to be vacated, and shall see that every seat continue vacant until it is selected under this order.

cated, and shall see that every seat continue vacant until it is selected under this order.

Accordingly, the seats of the members were vacated, and each member selected his seat for the session as his name was called from the Clerk's desk.

Mr. CAMPBELL, of Ohio, by unanimous consent, sub-mitted the following joint resolution; which was unani-mously adopted:

mously adopted:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States. That the clergymen of the city of Washington who may officiate as chaplains to the Senate and House of Representatives shall be admitted to the Library of Congress with the same privileges that are allowed to REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS

The committees being called for reports,
Mr. JONES, of Pennsylvania, from the Committee of
Ways and Means, reported the bill making appropriations
for the payment of invalid and other pensions of the United States for the year ending the 30th of June, 1859;
which was referred to the Committee of the Whole and
ordered to be private.

ordered to be printed.
On motion of Mr. J., the estimates of the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury Department were taken from the Speaker's table and referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

CONTESTED ELECTIONS. Mr. STEWART, of Maryland, presented the memorial of Mr. Brooks, contesting the seat of Mr. Davis, the sitting member from the third congressional district of Maryland; which was referred to the Committee of Elections and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BOWIE, of Maryland, presented the petition of William Pinkiney White to vacate the seat of J. M. Harnis, the sitting member from the second congressional district of Maryland; which was referred to the Committee of Elections and ordered to be printed.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

Mr. SMITH, of Tennessee, from the Committee on Printing, to whom was referred the proposition to print 20,000 extra copies of the President's message and accom-panying documents, submitted a report with the follow-

Resolution:
Resolved, That there be printed for the use of the numbers of the House of Representatives 20,000 extra opies of the President's annual message and accompanyng documents.

The question being on the adoption of the resolution.

The qualton being on the adoption of the resolution, Mr. COX, of Ohio, said that he did not wish to detain the House, but he had something connected with the President's message which he would like to say then and there. He reviewed that document at length, approving of the message generally, but taking exception to that portion of it which relates to Kansas. In his judgment, there would be no peace in Kansas if it should be admitted as a State with the Lecompton constitution. There could be nothing gained by trying to beat down the right of self-government in Kansas; but whether there should be peace or not, he would not sacrifice the principle involved therein for any peace. He was not unfriendly to the administration, and he did not believe that a difference of opinion on this question was opposed to party fealty. He might be allowed to represent his people. The pledges which he had given to his constituents constrained him to stand to the democratic policy, which was the submission of the whole constitution to the whole people. Whatever might be the legality of the constitution, he came to this question at last, Why was it that this constitution was not submitted to the the constitution, he came to this question at last, Why was it that this constitution was not submitted to the

Mr. HUGHES, of Indiana, in reply, remarked that he did not propose to follow the example of the gentleman from Ohlo, and enter into an extended discussion of the from Ohio, and enter into an extended discussion of the message of the President. He rose to express his surprise and regret that the gentleman had chosen this occasion to precipitate upon the House a discussion of the Kansas question. There were those who conceived that the ad-ministration was in trouble; that a cloud was hanging over the democratic party. He would humbly submit that in that state of things the friends of that administration and the members of that party should not be the first to sound the alarm. There was something in the unst to sound the alarm. There was something in the time and circumstances affecting a speech that entered quite as much into the question of whether it was a good speech or a bad one as the abstract questions involved in in it. As to his friend's speech, the time and the circumstances were both against him.

The question before the House.

20,000 extra copies of the President's message for the in-formation of the people. That message contained some recommendations in reference to Kansas affairs. There was no question before the House as to what should be done with Kansas—whether it should be admitted into the Union as a free State or a slave State. If that questhe Union as a free State or a slave State. It that question was to come it would come in the future. If the Lecompton constitution was to come before the House, it would come hereafter. The gentleman had startled the House—at least his political friends—by entering into a discussion of the President's message on this motion. A written speech, elaborately prepared, and upon this question! It was unexpected to him, because he believed that they had no presidential candidates in the body. Allusion had been made to the distinguished senator from Illinois, [Mr. Douglas,] and to his opposition. It might be well for that senator to look to his presidential pros-

ask his party to do that to which he was unwilling to commit himself on paper. He did not believe that the President would ask senators to run their necks into the halter of disunion or civil war before he was ready to take the lead and point out the way. Then let us restore peace the country by ignoring these irregular conventions at Letter compton and Topeka, and authorize the people to go forward and form a constitution and State government for ward and form a constitution and State government for themselves. That, he believed, would restore quiet in ninety days.

Mr. GREEN briefly replied, reiterating his position that the people of the State of Ohio in the last presidential election. He had understood him to say with presidential election had decided that the constitution of Kansas should be submitted to a vote of the people. He apprehended that there were no material differences between the issues of that canvass in Indiana and in Ohio, and if the gentleman would travel back with him a short time, he would recollect that the term popular sovereignty was not understood until after the election was over, and until after the decision of the Dred Scott case was not understood in the sense in which he seemed to understood. and until after the decision of the Dred Scott case was not understood in the sense in which he seemed to understand it. The gentleman would well recollect that the Missonri Compromise was repealed by the Nebraska act, which provided that the people, in a territorial condition, had the power to decide the slavery question for themselves; and if the gentleman would refer to the debates in the House at the last session he would find that his collesque stated that that, was the understanding of the democracy of the Northwest upon that question, and it was frankly admitted here that there was a difference of opinion, but not a national one. Now we had a construction of that act by the judiciary, and it had always been the practice of the democratic party to conform to its decisions.

cisions.

He thought that, in point of time and circumstances, the friends of peace and order in this country must deprecate this discussion. It was due to the message and the President that since his continents, his recommends. the President that since his centiments, his recommenda-tions, and his policy had been thus prematurely assailed, the question should be presented to this House in a form that gentlemen might be able to give their approbation or disapprobation. The cloud might have passed away, but since the question had been raised, let the House, choose, and let each man have an opportunity to say where he stands. For this purpose he offered the follow-ing substitute for the resolution reported by the Com-mittee on Printing, and demanded the previous ques-tion:

Mr. Russian question on view of the previous question on view by the Committee on Printing.

by the Committee on Printing.

by the Committee on Printing.

by the condition was seconded—ayes 101, noes the previous question was the printing the provious question was the printing the provious question was the printing the printing

Mr. SMITH, from the same committee, reported the Mr. SMITH, from the same committee, reported the following resolution; which was unanimously adopted Resolved. That there be printed sixteen thousand extra copies of the annual report of the Secretary of the Treusury on the state of the finances; fifteen thousand copies for the use of the members of the House of Representatives, and one thousand copies for the use of the Secretary.

COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS. Mr. TAYLOB, of New York, asked consent to submit a joint resolution providing for the payment of the annual compensation of the members of Congress at the rate of \$250 per month, commencing at the commencement of the present session; but objection was made.

ADDITIONAL MESSENGERS, PAGES, STC. Mr. FAULKNER, of Virginia, submitted the following

resolution:

Resolved, That a select committee of five be appointed to inquire into and report to this House the number of additional messengers, pages, and other officers, if necessary, required for the use of this hall, and the same committee to be allowed to report at any time.

Mr. BANKS, of Massachusetts, moved that the same committee be empowered to provide for the reporters not now fixed.

now fixed.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, suggested to the gentleman that it be requested to inquire as to whom may be allowed to come on the floor of the House.

Mr. HOUSTON, of Alabama, thought that there should be a committee to examine that subject.

The SPEAKER stated that there had been no provision.

The SPEARER stated that there and been no provision made for reporters, except for the reporters of the Globe, but that he had instructed the superintendent to provide for their accommodation in the gallery over the Speaker's chair. The Chair had directed that ten seats be provided for reporters, and the seats would be elevated so that they could see and hear better, perhaps, than if they were on the flower of the House.

could see and hear better, perhaps, than if they were on the floor of the House.

Mr. BANKS was not aware that any provision had been made by the Speaker, and withdrew his motion.

Mr. FLORENCE, of Pennsylvania, renewed it, and urged its adoption at considerable length.

Mr. CLINGMAN, of North Carolina, desired merely to say that ten or a dozen seats would not be sufficient to accommodate the reporters. It seemed to him that there ought to be some further provision.

Mr. GARNETT, of Virginia, proposed the following amendment:

And that they also be directed to inquire into and re

And that they also be directed to inquire into and report what additional accommodations are required for the comfort and health of the members.

The previous question having been demanded, received a second—ayes 127, noes not counted—and the amendments of the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. Garskry] and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Florakors] were adopted; and the original resolution as amended was passed.

And then, on motion of Mr. STEPHENS, of Georgia, at 20 minutes of 4 o'clock, the House adjourned.

PETITION, ETC.

By Mr. PHILLIPS, of Pennsylvania: The petition of frederick Zaracher for payment of expenses incurred by aim during the riots in Christiana, Lancaster county Pennsylvania: referred to Committee of Claims. By Mr. SCOTF, of California: Memorial of Thos. G Ackley for indemnity for depredations committed upo his property by Indians in California during the year 1850

MAINE, THE SHIP-BUILDING STATE. - Maine is the great ship-building State of the Union. It is a matter of sur-prise to see the returns for the year ending June 30, 1857, for it will be perceived that the falling off from other years is far less than in other States, and less than what

was suffered by our own people.

The following table shows the amount of tonnage built

n the United States and by the he last ten years:	people of Maine	during
	Built in U. States.	Built in
848	318,075	89,975
849	256,577	82,256
850	272,218	91,212
851	298,203	75,399
852	351,493	100,047
853		118,816
854	535,616	168,621
855	583,450	215,904
856	489,393	149,907
857	378,804	110,933
The ships of Maine are of the	e largest class of	vessels,

and more valuable than the average tonnage of the Uni

Engines Worked by Ether. — M. Tissot, an engineer of some standing, has communicated to the French Academy of Science the description of an engine entirely worked by the expansive power of ether. The combination of this power with that of steam has long been tried on a large scale with apparently good effect; nevertheless it is attended with certain inconveniences which more than balance its advantages. M. Tissot, therefore, endeavored to eliminate steam altogether, by mixing two litres of an essential oil of any kind except oil of turpentine with the ether. The boiler is encircled with a water-bath; moreover, each time that the ether is re-conducted to the boiler it is made to pass through a thin stratum of olive oil. The boiler is filled to a certain depth with water, which a small quantity of soda (me gramme per litre) has ENGINES WORKED BY ETHER. - M. Tissot, an engineer oil. The boller is filled to a certain depth with water, in which a small quantity of soda (one gramme per litre) has been dissolved. The ether, in passing through the oil in a state of vapor, carries some particles of this oil with it; and the latter, coming in contact with the soda, is converted to soap. This double action produces an excellent effect, since the soapy substance in question acts cellent effect, since the scapy substance in question a as a preservative on the various parts of the engine, whi being undone after a long time is found to have und being undone after a long time is found to have undergone no change from the effects of wear or friction, a thin coating of a fatty substance having spread over the surface of the cylinders and pistons, and preserved them from injury. An engine of this description of two-horse power having been constructed and tested with satisfactory effect, another of twelve-horse power was established some time ago in a brewery at Lyons instead of a common steam engine, and has been found to answer perfectly. The evaporation of ether is much more rapid than that of water; thus, a quantity of ether, which, if it were water, it would take an hour and a half to evaporate, may be turned into vapor in the course of six minutes with much less fuel; the quantity of coal consumed per hour and per horse-power being only one and a half kilogrammes, while the ordinary quantity is four kilogrammes.

COTTON MANUFACTURES IN SWITZERLAND. - The manufactures ture of cotton in Switzerland has increased with great rapidity. In 1830 the republic had in operation four hundred thousand spindles; in 1840 seven hundred and fifty thousand; in 1850 nine hundred and fifty thou-sand—the number having doubled in twenty-five years. This progress in cotton manufacture is the more surprising because of the heavy expense with which the raw ma terial is burdened by transit tolls before it reaches Switz

A New Feature on American Steamers.—We hear that Commodore Vanderbilt will open the next season with a decided improvement in ocean steam mavigation, by the substitution of the European for the American system of supplying food to passengers, requiring each to order and pay for whatever he requires, and nothing more. The mere abatement of nausea, which this change will secure a sea-sick passenger, will tend strongly to recommend it.

Origin or the PENDULUM.—Galileo, when under twenty years of age, was standing one day in the Metropolitan Church of Pisa, when he observed a lamp, which was suspended from the ceiling, and which had been disturbed by accident, swing backwards and forwards. This was a thing so common that thousands, no doubt, had observed it before; but Galileo, struck with the regularity with which it moved backwards and forwards, reflected upon it, and perfected the method now in use of measuring time by means of a pendulum.

maintained and defended, be a temple of honor and glory to our land. Let the deliberations and the decisposition, and contended that it was not republican? He believed not; certainly the senator from Illinois had not done so.

Mr. G. went on to remark that there seemed to be a want of a clear understanding as to the relation which the federal government sustains towards a Territory. A Territory, when it is organized, constitutes a "people." Individuals may live on lands belonging to the United States, and still not be a people in the technical sense of the word; but, whenever a Territory is organized (not a political community, then they constitute a "people." The inhabitants of Kansas are, therefore, a maintained and defended, be a temple of honor and glory to our land. Let the deliberations and the decision and the decision of the decision of the decision of the congruence of the whole dark from the praise of the whole carb. The cloud might have passed away, but since the question had been raised, but since the question had been raised, but since the question had been raised for disapprobation. The cloud might have passed away, but since the question had been raised, but since the question had been raised the those of Europe, the Prince of Schaumburg Let the lone of the series of the whole carb. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all the ferritory is a substitute for the resolution. The cloud might have passed away, but since the question had been raised, but since the question had been raised, the the force, and the ca THE SOVERMONS OF EUROPE. -Of the forty-seven rule

d extra copies of the Pres WASHINGTON CITY.

THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 17, 1867. Ar-Mr. Issael E. James, of Philadelphia, is our general gent, assisted by Jame Dannino, Juny Cottless, J. Hamary V. Wiley, Jone K. Inzanno, E. A. Evane, R. S. James, T.

A. Davis, R. T. Romero.

Sig-Mr. C. W. James, No. 1 Harrison street, Cincinnati, Chio, is or general collecting agent for the Western States and Texas, assisted by H. J. Thomas, William H. Thomas, Taken M. James, De A. L. Chillo Ground Months, and Richards Laken. Receipts of either will be good.

37 Mr. Gro. W. Bhay is authorized to collect moneys due the Chica Company for subsections and street security in the District.

OFFICIAL.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.

By and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Thomas J. Semmes district attorney for the eastern district of Louisiana, vice Franklin H. Clack, re-

CONGRESS-WEDNESDAY SENATE - After the appointment of the stand committees, the Kansas question was discussed du-

will occupy the floor.

House or REPRESENTATIVES .- The House met in the new hall. Several executive communications were received; after which the members drew for seats. Mr. J. Glancy Jones, of Pennsylvania, from the Committee of Ways and Meaus, reported the bill making appropriation for the payment of invalid and other pensions. Mr. Stewart, of Maryland, presented the memorial of Mr. Brooks, contesting the seat of Mr Davis, of Maryland, and Mr. Bowie the petition Mr. White, contesting the seat of Mr. J. M. Harris. The President's message was then taken up on a motion to print; when Mr. Cox, of Ohio, presented his views on the Kansas question, opposing its ad mission into the Union with the Lecompton constit tion. Mr. Hughes, of Indiana, followed in defence of the position taken by the President in the message. A special committee was authorized to inquire into the necessity of additional doorkeepers and other officers of the House; after which it adjourned.

TOPEKA AND LECOMPTON.

The last intelligence from Kansas develops clear y the purposes of the Topeka leaders in permitting their followers to vote for members of the legislature and in not permitting them to vote for delegates to the constitutional convention. They had resolved never to recognise the legality and validity of the legislative body which passed the act calling the convention-hence they refused to vote for dele gates; but, supposing that the constitution would be submitted, they reserved their votes to be cast in rejecting the constitution, no matter what might be its provisions. Their minds were made up to have no onstitution but that made at Topeka. To carry out this object, they determined to vote for members of the legislature, intending, if they secured the majority in that body, to convert it into a Topeka legislature, and by its action to adopt the Topeka constitution. These facts being well understood by the convention, is was determined that the best mode of securing a speedy settlement of the controversy was to submit the slavery question, and then to present the constitution to Congress for admission without further delay.

The late proceedings of the Topeka men fully sus

tain these statements, and confirm us in the opinio that the convention acted with great wisdom in adopting their line of policy. We call special attention to the following proceedings of the convention lately held at Lawrence, in Kansas :

lately held at Lawrence, in Kansas:

Resolvel, That we utterly repudiate the constitution framed at Lecompton; that it is an instrument hostile to the popular will; and, appealing to the God of justice and humanity for the rectitude of our intentions, we do solemnly enter into a league and covenant with each other that we shall never, under any circumstances, permit the said constitution, so framed and not susurres, to be the organic law for the State of Kansas, but do pledge our lives, our fortunes and sacred honors, in ceaseless hostility to the same.

Resolved, That we denounce the so-called election of December 21 as a swindle, and the election of January 4, 1858, as a crime and misdemeanor against the peace of this Territory and the will of the majority.

Resolved, That the legislature elected in this Territory on the 5th day of October, 1857, is the only legitimate law-making body that has ever been elected for the Territory of Kansas, and that its functions shall not be suspended by any constitution or State government until

Territory of Kansas, and that its functions shall not be suspended by any constitution or State government until a fair and impartial vote shall be had on the same.

*Resolved** That this delegate-convention do hereby reendorse the constitution known as the Topeka constitution, and do declare it to represent the wishes of the majority of the constitution. fron, and do declare it to represent the wastes of the mid-jority of the people of Kansas to-day, and that when it shall have again received the popular sanction, under au-thority of the only legitimate territorial legislature ever convened in Kansas Territory, recognised by the authori-ty of the United States, we shall maintain it against all opposition.

Resolved. That, looking chiefly to the above end, we re

spectfully memorialize the territorial legislature, about to convene in an extra session on the 7th inst., to frame a fair and impartial election law, and that they, under it do submit the two constitutions—the people's constitu-tion framed at Topeka and the constitution framed at Lecompton—to a vote of the people of this Territor, and that the said legislature provide that the constitution which shall receive a majority of all the legal votes shall become the fundamental law for the State of It is here seen that the Kansas legislature, which

has been fully recognised as legitimate by the Executive and by Congress, by Gov. Walker and by Mr. Stanton, and, indeed, by the whole democratic party, is denounced and repudiated. It is also seen that the constitutional convention which was cho in pursuance of an act of this legislature, and recognised as legitimate by all democrats, is, in like manner, denounced and repudiated. It is further seen that the purpose is openly avowed that Kansas shall never be a State with any other constitution than that made at Topeka, which constitution, it will be remembered, ecutive and Congress as well as by Gov. Walker, Mr. Stanton, and the whole democratic party. and on the evening of the 7th instant a special meet.

It now appears that the newly-elected members of ing of the "Breckinridge Club" of 1856 was called

hence null and void. What, then, if they do adopt honor, and the city authorities paid their respects.

the Topeka constitution and submit it to the people to be voted for in competition with the Lecempton constitution? Upon the principle in the Arkansas ease, and upon the principle recognized by the report of the Committee on Territories, made on the 2d of March, 1856, the application for admission under such illegal proceedings must be rejected. Called together and organized as it is, it is nothing more than a second edition of the Topeka convention No enabling act of Congress is asked for-no valid territorial legislative act is to be passed; but the Topeka constitution is to be presented the second time with no better or higher sanction than when it was presented before. GRA ZROY WAS SID

REPORT ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The report from the Commissioner of Indian Af-fairs is strictly a business document, giving a com-plete narrative of the transactions of the Indian office during the year, together with such changes in the condition of the various tribes as may serve to record the history of the original owners of the American continent. The numerous suggestions for the improvement of the condition of the Indians de serve the considerate attention of Congress. The New York Indians continue to improve it

their condition, having adopted to a considerable extent the habits and customs of their white brethren. The several tribes in Michigan have been relieved from the obligation to remove west of the Missis sippi, now hold their lands in severalty, and under the liberal legislation of that State, can attain to citizenship. The Menomonees and Stockbridges of Wisconsin have also been released from their engagements to emigrate westward. The Oneidas renain in the vicinity of Green Bay. The great Chippewa tribe has ceded nearly all of its lands in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan, and the various bands should be located on suitable reservations.

The Dacotahs or Sioux and the Winnebagoes of Minnesota are doing well. It was a small outlawed and reckless band of the Sioux that committed the murders and outrages at the white settlement at Spirit Lake in March last, who have since been severely punished by their brethren. As many as two thousand of the Indians of the tribes on the upper and headwaters of the Missouri river have been carried off by the small-pox.

The Indian tribes west of Missouri and Iowa, in the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas, have ceded about 13,658,000 acres of their lands for the use and settlement of the whites, reserving about 1,342,000 acres for their own use. The lands ceded by the Delawares have been sold for their benefit, yielding \$1,054,943 71; the lands of the loways yielded \$184.437 85; and the lands of the four united tribes Kaskaskias, Peorias, Weas, and Piankeshaws, yielded \$335,350-all of which has been invested for their benefit. The Wyandotts have abandoned their tribal character.

The Commissioner concurs with the views of his predecessors that there have been two great mistakes n our Indian policy-the assignment of an entirely too large body of land in common to the different tribes which have been relocated; and the payment of large money amuities for the cessions made by them. These errors are exposed at length, and numerous suggestions offered for their improvement and civilization. The reservations should be restricted, manual-labor schools and mechanics' shops established, and no white person permitted to obtain a

footbold within the reservations. The Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, and Chickasaws are in a flourishing condition. The late annual message of John Ross, chief of the Cherokees, accompanies the report.

It is expected that the Seminoles will soon remove and settle within the district of country provided for them, and it is hoped that the balance of the tribe in Florida can then be induced peaceably to remove and join them.

Attention is called to the evil effects of per capito payments of amouities. It breaks down and destroys the influence of the chiefs, and thus disorcanizes the tribes and leaves them without a government. With the diminished control and influence of the chiefs, there is increased lawlessness on the part of the members, and hence the greater number of outrages on the persons and property of other in-

dians, and of our citizens. The colonization of the Indians in Texas on the reservations set apart for them is progressing rapidly. The several colonies will soon be able to support themselves. The Indians in New Mexico begin to appreciate and understand our power and resources. and are generally willing to settle down on reservaions. The Pueblo Indians hold the tracts they occupy by grants from the Spanish or Mexican governnents; they should be surveyed and set apart from the surrounding lands.

No reliable or satisfactory information in regard to the Indians in Utah is in possession of the office. The superintendent for California reports that universal peace prevails among the tribes in that State, and that they are making great progress in acquiring a knowledge of the pursuits of industry. Five reser vations have been established in that State.

Our relations with the Indians of Oregon and Washington are in a very critical condition, and under the existing state of things there is a constant liability to a general outbreak on their part from any disturbing cause. They are represented to be willing to dispose of their lands, and the purchase is

THE VICE PRESIDENT AT THE SOUTH. The Hon. John C. Breckinridge, the Vice President

of the United States, has recently made a brief sowas rejected as illegal and inadmissible by the Ex- journ at Baton Rouge and New Orleans. At the former city he was visited by its citizens generally the Kansas legislature have been Topeknized by the when it marched in procession, "with its victorious proclamation of Acting Governor Stanton, and old banner of the presidential campaign floating in that it is to readopt the Topeka constitution, and the van," (to quote from the Advocate.) to the resi place it in competition with the Lecompton con-dence of Gov. Wickliffe, where Mr. Breckinridge vention. We should think it difficult to draw a was dining with a number of friends, to tender to the real distinction between the illegal proceedings distinguished visitor a welcome to the capital of which resulted in the formation of the Topeka Louisiana. Hop. A. S. Herron bid the Vice Presiconstitution and those now resorted to by Mr. Stan-dent a cordial welcome, which was ratified by three ton through the premature calling together of the hearty cheers from the concourse of citizens. Mr new legislature. Mr. Stanton had no authority to Breckinridge acknowledged the compliment in a issue such a proclamation; the initiatory step, there- speech of some length, which seems to have excited fore, was illegal and void. The members of the le-much entinesiasm among his auditory—the whole ocgislature have no rights as members until the 1st of casion passing off in a very agreeable and pleasing January, 1858. Their assembling, therefore, is ille- manner. At New Orleans, where his visit was very gal, and all their proceedings are usurpations, and brief, a salute was fired on Lafayette Square in his